

## EL Civics

The purpose of the English Literacy and Civics Education (EL/Civics Education) program is to support projects that demonstrate effective practices in providing, and increasing access to, English literacy programs linked to civics education. EL/Civics Education instruction goes far beyond the scope of the naturalization process to integrate a comprehensive civic participation component into English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) instruction. EL/Civics projects stress contextualized learning in which language and literacy are developed through practical, immediately relevant, thematic units. Experiential learning concepts such as the "classroom without walls" in which students are actively engaged in community pursuits are integrated into program delivery.

EL/Civics learners in Idaho are currently involved in the following types of activities:

- Problem-solving student-identified issues of local community concern (i.e., the need for bilingual medical care, the understanding and advocacy for nondiscrimination in the workplace and in the community, etc.)
- Participating in community enrichment initiatives and volunteer opportunities such as cultural diversity celebrations, creating/maintaining a community beautification project, or mentoring others
- Learning about the culture of the American workplace and the skills needed to succeed in the labor market
- Researching, using and visiting community/educational/governmental resources, such as libraries, museums, support groups, and local and state government agencies/institutions
- Learning about the rights and responsibilities of community members and navigating through bureaucratic systems to exercise those rights and responsibilities
- Participating in living history presentations, arts, music and other media to understand American values and traditions

....and much more!

For more information about EL/Civics programs in Idaho, contact Cheryl Engel at [csengel@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:csengel@sde.idaho.gov)

EL Civics links are: Please see resource list at [www.sde.state.id.us/certification/AdultEd.asp](http://www.sde.state.id.us/certification/AdultEd.asp) Menu Item: Resources

1. "EL Civics; In Praise of Just In Time Teaching" - Heide Spruck-Wrigley  
<http://www.intelecom.org/ilrn/adulted/crc/crcpdf/JustinTimeTeaching.pdf>
2. Civic Education and Community Action Source Book  
<http://easternlincs.worlded.org/docs/vera/index1.htm>